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Supreme Court Affirmative Action Ruling Not Likely To Impact Louisiana Higher Education Desegregation Settlement

A U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the University of Michigan's use of race as a factor in student admissions expected later this week is not likely to have any significant bearing on Louisiana's court-ordered higher education desegregation process. The 1994 Louisiana ruling stipulated the need to attract other-race students through active recruitment and by concentrating on unnecessarily duplicated and underfunded academic programs.

"The circumstances surrounding Louisiana's settlement are fundamentally different from those in Michigan," said Commissioner of Higher Education E. Joseph Savoie.

"We're just going to continue under this federal court order," said Helen Johnson, special master to the court for the settlement.